

Public Notice

In reply refer to: 200201287, Issuance Date:

Public Notice No. 200201321, 200201322 September 24, 2004

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Stream: Expiration Date:

Miller Creek October 24, 200 address comments to: US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

Address comments to: US Army Corps of Engineers, H
502 Eighth Street
ATTN: CELRH-F

PUBLIC NOTICE: The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you

will participate in this process.

REGULATORY PROGRAM: Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

SECTION 10: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application.

APPLICANT:

Consol of Kentucky, Inc. 1800 Washington Road

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241

LOCATION: The proposed project is located on two unnamed tributaries to Left Fork of Miller Creek, Left Fork Miller Creek, three unnamed tributaries to Miller Creek, two unnamed tributaries to Road Branch, and two unnamed tributaries to Parker Fork of Miller Creek near Nolan, Mingo County, West Virginia as depicted on the attached Drawing 1, labeled "General Location Map." The location of the proposed valley fills and associated sediment ponds is depicted on Drawings 2 - 4 titled "Stream Measurement and Delineation Map."

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place fill material into waters of the U.S. for the purpose of surface mining activities. The work includes the

construction of two sediment ponds, two valley fills, a temporary road fill and another temporary access road associated with the MT-13 Surface Mine; two valley fills, two sediment ponds and two road crossings associated with the MT-34 Surface Mine; and three sediment ponds and three valley fills associated with the MT-11 Surface Mine. The applicant received NPDES authorization from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) on April 14, 1997 for these mines (MT-13: WVDEP # S-5039-93; MT-34: S-5040-93; MT-11: S-5038-93) pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. On February 2, 2004, this project was authorized under three separate Nationwide Permit 21 authorizations.

The total impacts to waters of the United States would include 9,617 linear feet of permanent impacts and 3,530 linear feet of temporary impacts. The project would disturb approximately 608 acres.

MT-13 Mine:

Information submitted by the applicant indicated one valley fill on the MT-13 mine (DRF-1301) would impact approximately 405 linear feet of intermittent and 1,031 linear feet of ephemeral stream length of one unnamed tributary to Miller Creek. The associated sediment pond and the conveyance between the toe of the valley fill and the sediment pond would impact an additional 300 linear feet of the same intermittent channel.

A second valley fill on the MT-13 mine (DRF-1302) would impact approximately 790 linear feet of intermittent and 110 linear feet of ephemeral stream length of an unnamed tributary to Left Fork Miller Creek. The associated sediment pond and conveyance would impact an additional 250 linear feet of the intermittent stream.

The road fill would temporarily impact approximately 640 linear feet of an ephemeral portion of Left Fork Miller Creek. The proposed access road would involve the placement of four 60" diameter culverts into 80 linear feet of a perennial portion of Left Fork Miller Creek.

MT-34 Mine:

A third valley fill, the first on the MT-34 mine (DRF-3401), would impact approximately 375 linear feet of one unnamed ephemeral tributary ("Second Right Fork of Parker Fork") to Parker Fork and approximately 529 linear feet of ephemeral channel and 1,246 linear feet of an intermittent channel in Parker Fork. Approximately 20 linear feet of another unnamed ephemeral tributary ("First Right Fork to Parker Fork") to Parker Fork would be impacted for temporary overburden storage. The sediment pond associated with this valley fill (SD-3401) would impact an additional 500 linear feet of intermittent stream channel in Parker Fork.

A fourth valley fill, the second on the MT-34 mine (DRF-3402), would impact approximately 185 linear feet of ephemeral channel and 800 linear feet of intermittent channel on an unnamed tributary to Miller Creek. The associated sediment pond would impact an additional 300 linear feet of intermittent stream channel on the same stream. A road crossing would impact approximately 40 linear feet of Miller Creek, while a second road crossing would impact approximately 40 linear feet of Parker Fork.

MT-11 Mine:

A fifth valley fill, the first on the MT-11 mine (DRF-1101), would impact approximately 600 linear feet of ephemeral stream length of one unnamed tributary to Left Fork Miller Creek. The associated sediment pond and the conveyance between the toe of the valley fill and the sediment pond would impact an additional 350 linear feet of the same ephemeral channel.

A sixth valley fill, the second on the MT-11 mine (DRF-1102), would impact approximately 596 linear feet of an unnamed tributary to Miller Creek. The associated sediment pond and conveyance would impact an additional 260 linear feet of the stream (ephemeral).

Finally, the seventh valley fill, the third on the MT-11 mine (DRF-1103), would impact approximately 2,950 linear feet of two unnamed tributaries to Road Branch, 10 linear feet of which is considered ephemeral while the remaining 2,940 linear feet is intermittent. The associated sediment pond and conveyance would impact an additional 750 linear feet of the intermittent portion of this stream.

Left Fork Miller Creek and Parker Fork are tributaries of Miller Creek. Miller Creek and Road Branch are tributaries to the Tug Fork River, a navigable water of the United States. Table A of this public notice details the proposed mining activities and corresponding information with respect to the proposed impact locations and stream loss (linear feet and acres). The proposed valley fills would drain watersheds of less than 250 acres and range from 8 acres to 107 acres as detailed on Table A of this public notice.

Drawings 2 - 4 labeled "Stream Measurement and Delineation Map" depict the overall mining plans for the MT-13, MT-34, and MT-11 Mines, respectively. Drawings 5 - 7, labeled "Plan—Silt Dam 1101" and "Sections—Silt Dam 3401," show a plan view and cross sections of one of the proposed sediment ponds (1101). A silt dam is an earthen structure placed across the stream bed in order to create an impoundment for directing runoff from the associated valley fill. This impoundment is also known as a sediment pond, as it functions as a catch basin for sediment draining off the fill. Drawings 8 and 9, labeled "Durable Rock Fill 1101" and "Durable Rock Fill 1102" respectively, show plan views, longitudinal views, and typical cross sections for two of the proposed valley fills and associated diversion ditches. The other silt dams, sediment ponds and valley fills in this proposed project will have similar configurations. Drawing 10, labeled "Plan and Section—Road Fill," shows the plan and longitudinal views of the proposed temporary road fill on the MT-13 mine. Drawing 12, labeled "Stream Crossing Location Map," indicates the location of one of the proposed temporary access road crossings (associated with the MT-13 mine). Drawing 13, labeled "A-34," shows a plan and cross section view of one of the proposed temporary access road crossings (associated with the MT-34 mine).

According to the applicant, the purpose of the project is to surface mine bituminous coal.

MITIGATION PLAN: The proposed project would include total permanent impacts of 3,436 linear feet of ephemeral channel and 6,181 linear feet of intermittent channel. Total temporary impacts would include 160 linear feet of perennial channel, 2,100 linear feet of intermittent channel, and 1,270 linear feet of ephemeral channel. The applicant has provided a detailed proposed Stream Mitigation Plan and Stream Restoration Plan in addition to a General Mitigation Agreement that includes measures to minimize impacts to waters of the United States

such as Best Management Practices to ensure no more than the minimum area needed for coal excavation would be disturbed by this activity.

The Stream Mitigation Plan would include the creation of 13,300 linear feet of intermittent stream channel and 13,350 linear feet of ephemeral stream channel. The Stream Restoration Plan would include the restoration of 610 linear feet of ephemeral channel and 2,100 linear feet of intermittent channel associated with the sediment ponds, in addition to 160 linear feet of perennial channel associated with road crossings. All of these channels are also proposed to have 25-foot riparian buffers established on each side of the restored/created channel. The 25-foot riparian buffer zone would be established on both sides of all restored channels, using NRCS-recommended planting plans and native vegetation. The Stream Mitigation Plan included a contingency plan of corrective measures should the proposed mitigation not meet performance standards of flow requirements, and the planting success was proposed to be 80%. The proposed Stream Mitigation Plan includes a statement "...if connectivity [of the created channels] to waters of the U.S. cannot be documented, additional channels will be designed and installed to ensure the mitigation channels are hydrologically connected to existing waters." The Stream Mitigation Plan also would include identical stream design, planting, and contingency plans as in the Stream Restoration Plan.

A total of 6,181 linear feet of created intermittent channel is proposed to compensate for intermittent stream impacts. A total of 4,096 linear feet of created ephemeral channel (660 l.f. temporary plus 3,436 l.f. permanent) is proposed to compensate for ephemeral stream impacts. For the remaining created channels (7,119 linear feet of intermittent and 9,254 linear feet of ephemeral), the applicant wishes to place in reserve for impacts associated with future projects.

Drawings 14-16, labeled "Stream Measurement and Delineation Map," show an overall plan view for the proposed mitigation streams on the MT-13, MT-34 and MT-11 mines, respectively. Drawings 17 - 18, labeled "Stream Restoration Plan," show plan views of the proposed restoration of the stream channels affected by sediment ponds 3401 and 3402, respectively. Restoration of the other streams proposed to be impacted by this project's sediment ponds has similar plan views to these. Finally, Drawing 19 labeled "Sediment Ditch/Stream Channel," shows a typical cross section view of the proposed restoration and created stream channels.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. The WV Department of Environmental Protection granted Certification for the MT-13 mine on May 28, 2004, and the MT-11 and MT-34 mines on May 25, 2004. All conditions and requirements of the Certifications would be made a part of this authorization, if approved.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been consulted and it has been determined there are no properties currently listed on the register that are in the area affected by the project. This office previously coordinated with the WV Division of Culture and History during review for authorization under Nationwide Permit #21 concerning the proposed projects. The WV Division of Culture and History indicated no "...historical, architectural, or archaeological sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by [these] project[s]." A copy of this public notice will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES REVIEW: This project is located within the known or historic range of the following federally-listed species:

Bald Eagle Indiana Bat Virginia Big-Eared Bat Eastern Cougar

The applicant has provided the results of mist net surveys for Indiana bats conducted in late summer of 2003 on all three mining areas. No Indiana bats or Virginia big-eared bats were captured during these surveys. The results of these surveys were forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their review. Based on their review of the surveys, the agency concluded "...no federally listed endangered and threatened species are expected to be impacted by [these] project[s]."

This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest that may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity.

Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of

Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please call Jim Spence of the South

Regulatory Section at 304-399-5710.

Swape Mullins, Chief Regulatory Branch

(W)

Table A

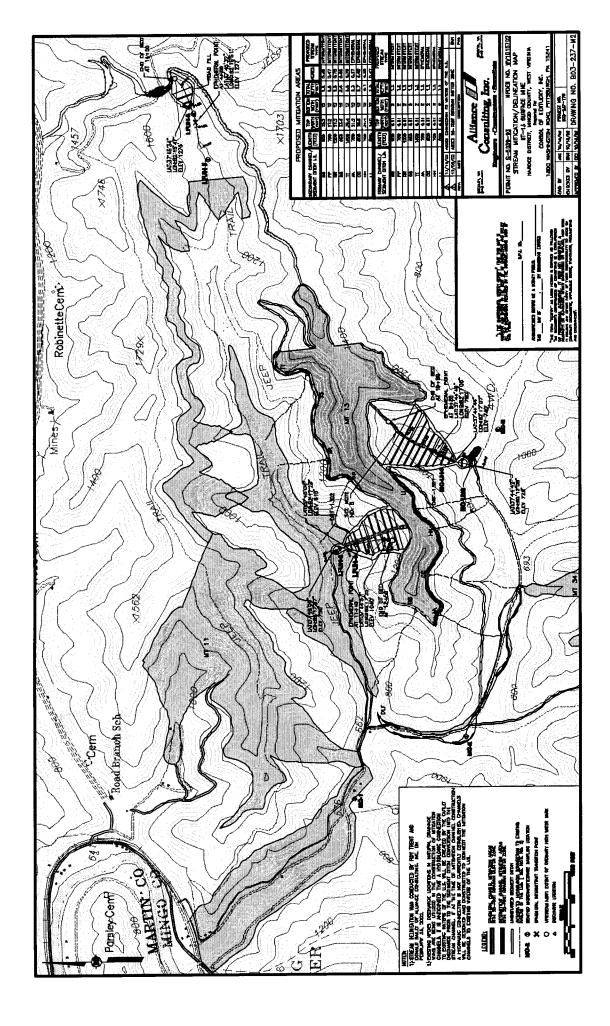
200201287-UN Trib Let Fork Miller Creek WVDEP Application No. S-5039-93
200201321-Parker Fork WVDEP Application No. S-5040-93

•	Extent o	Extent of PERMANENT Impacts	T Impacts	Extent of PERMANENT Impacts Extent of TEMPORARY Impact	Extent of TEMPORARY Impacts	Y Impacts	Cumulative	Drainage (Acres)
. — .		(Linear Feet)			(Linear Feet)		Acres of	Area (Acres)
	Perennial	Intermittent	Ephemeral	Perennial	Intermittent	Ephemeral	Impact	
U/T Miller	•	•	•	•	300	•	0.024	82.0
Creek								
U/T Miller	•	405	1031	•	•	•	0.130	79.0
Creek								
U/T Left	•	•	•	•	250	•	0.017	48.5
Fork Miller								
Creek								
U/T Left	•	790	110	•	•	•	0.053	46.2
Fork Miller								
Creek								
Left Fork	•	•	•	•	•	640	0.022	23.0
Miller Creek								
Left Fork	•	•	•	08	•	•	0.029	872.3
Miller Creek								
Parker Fork	•	•	•	•	200	•	0.049	119.02
Right Fork	•	•	•	•	•	20	0.002	22.1
of Parker								
Fork								
Second	•	•	375	•	•	•	0.033	8.1
Right Fork								
of Parker								
Fork								

0.70	0.00	50.0		42.9		4,665		451.8		51.5			42.2			60.3		54.7		141.9		107.3						
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7	529	•		185		•		•		•			009			•		969		•		10		3436		9617	13	
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	•	•		•		•		•		•			•			•		•		•		•		•				
	Parker Fork	U/T Miller	Creek	U/T Miller	Creek	Miller Creek		Parker Fork		U/T Left	Fork Miller	Creek	U/T Left	Fork Miller	Creek	U/T Miller	Creek	U/T Miller	Creek	U/T Road	Branch	2 U/T Road	Branch	anent and	Impacts)			
	Hollow Fill (DRF-3401)	Sediment Pond	(SD 3402)	Hollow Fill	(DRF-3402)	Access Road	(A-34)	Access Road	(A-34)	Sediment Pond	(SD 1101)		Hollow Fill	(DRF-1101)		Sediment Pond	(SD 1102)	Hollow Fill	(DRF-1102)	Sediment Pond	(SD 1103)	Hollow Fill	(DRF-1103)	Total (Permanent and	Temporary Impacts)	•		-

DRAWING ND. B03-237-B1 500 FE TOPOGRAPHY FROM 7.5 MIN. USGS QUADRANGLES OF NAUGATUCK AND WILLIAMSON WEST VIRGINIA, DATED 1963 (PHOTOREVISED 1975) AND 1992 RESPECTIVELY. NT-11, NT-13 AND NT-34 SURFACE UNES HARDEE DISTRICT, MINOO COUNTY, WEST YRRING Consulting, Inc. GENERAL LOCATION MAP CONSOL OF KENTUCKY, INC. 1800 WASHINGTON ROAD, PITTSBURCH, **500** Alliance / Prepared For SCALE REFERENCE -13 PERMIT AREA Drawing 1 of 19

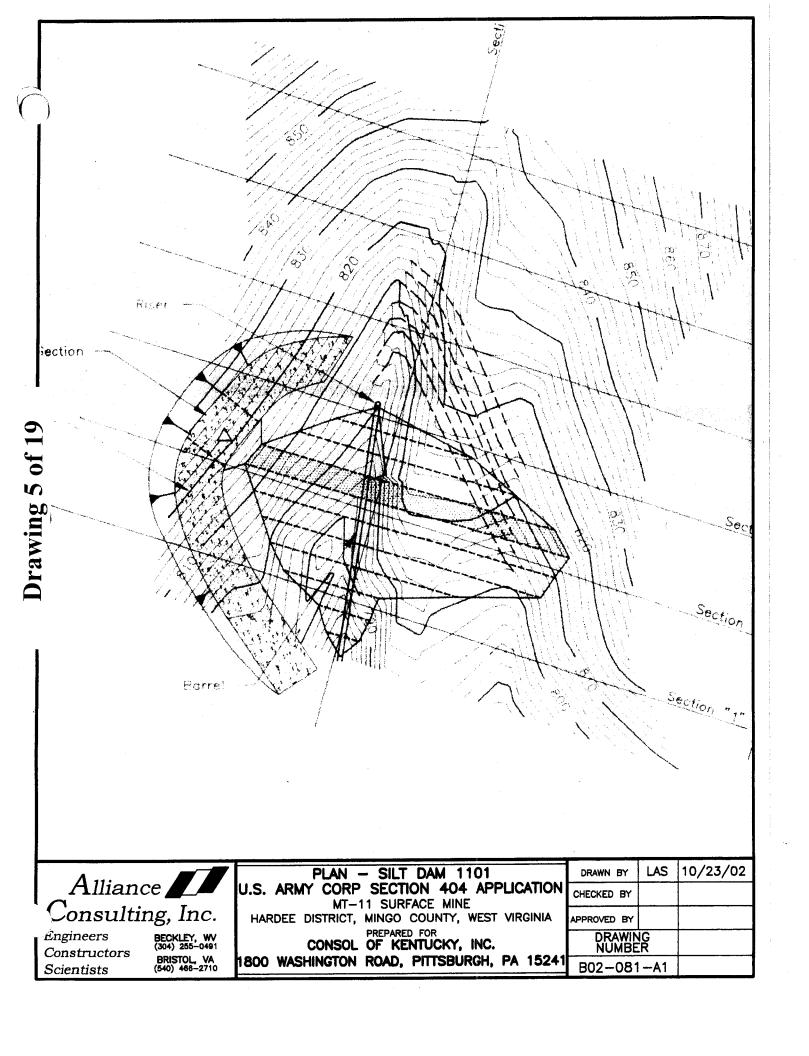
Drawing 2 of 19

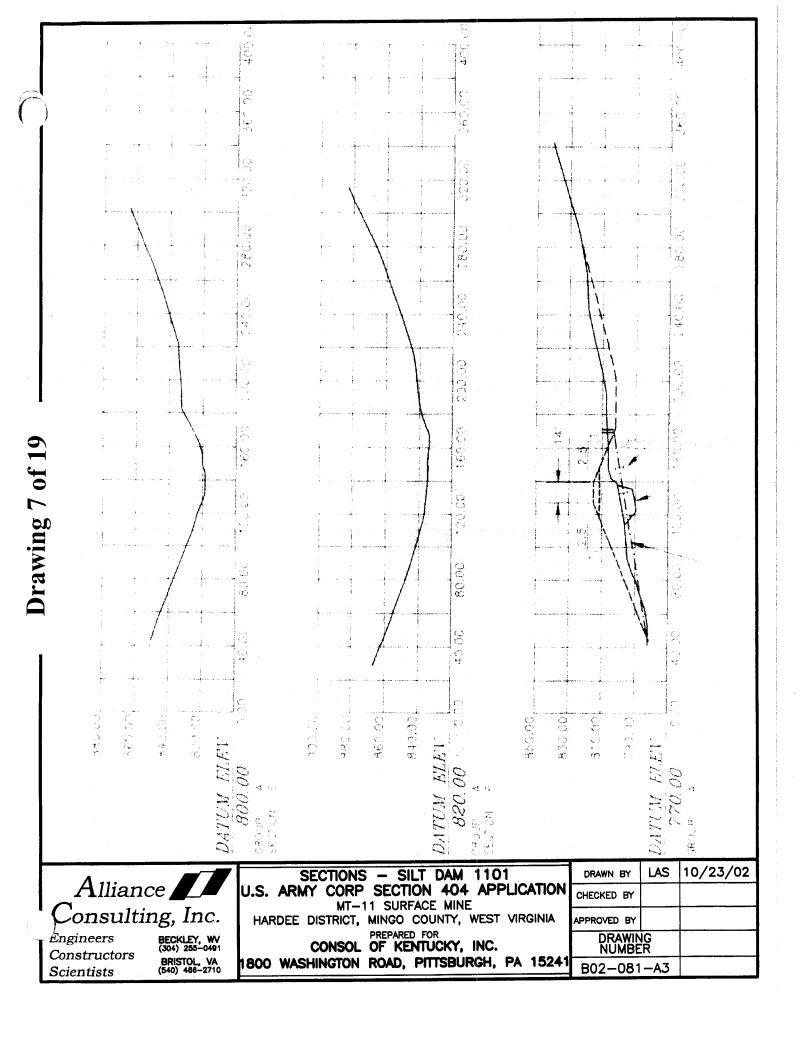


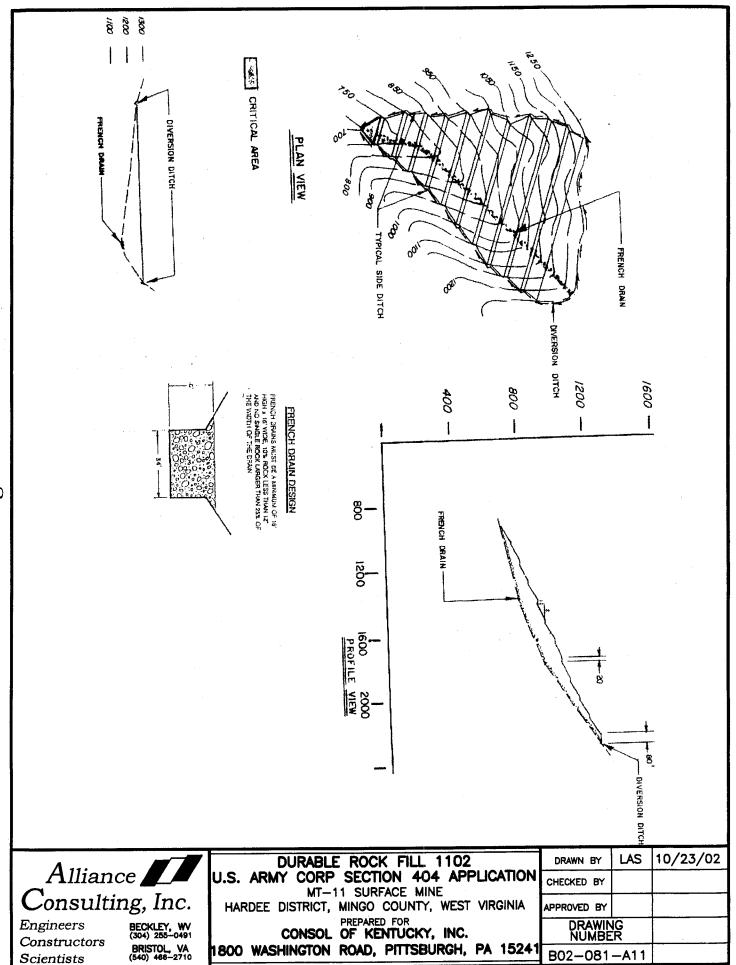
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Drawing 3 of 19

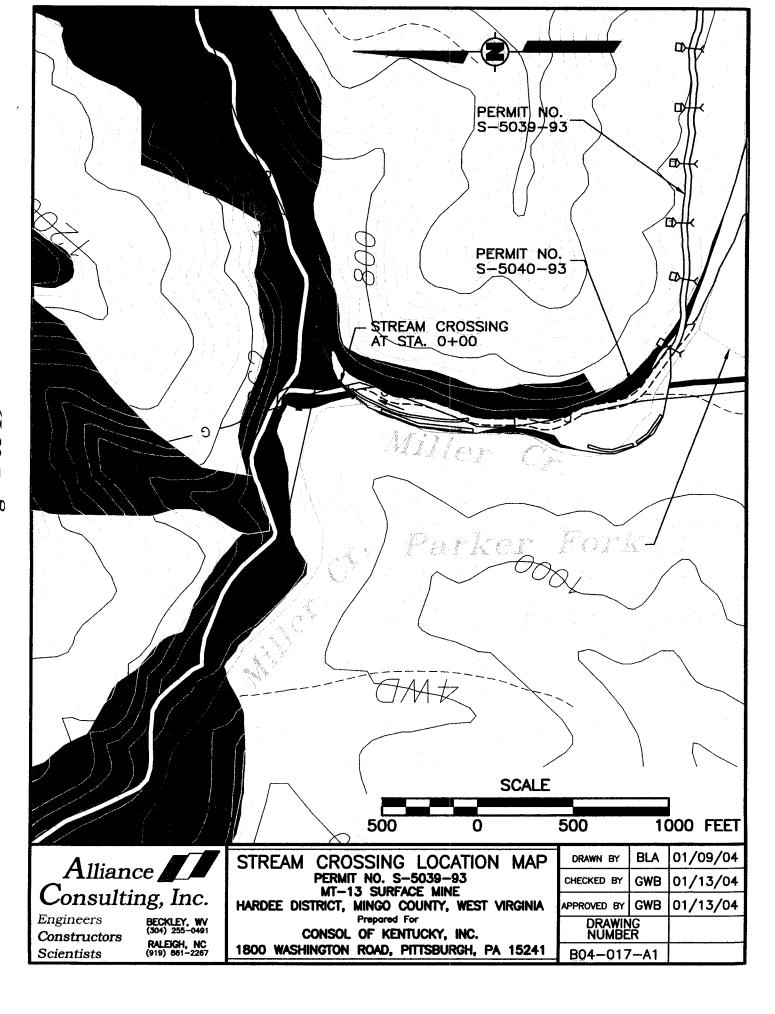
Drawing 4 of 19

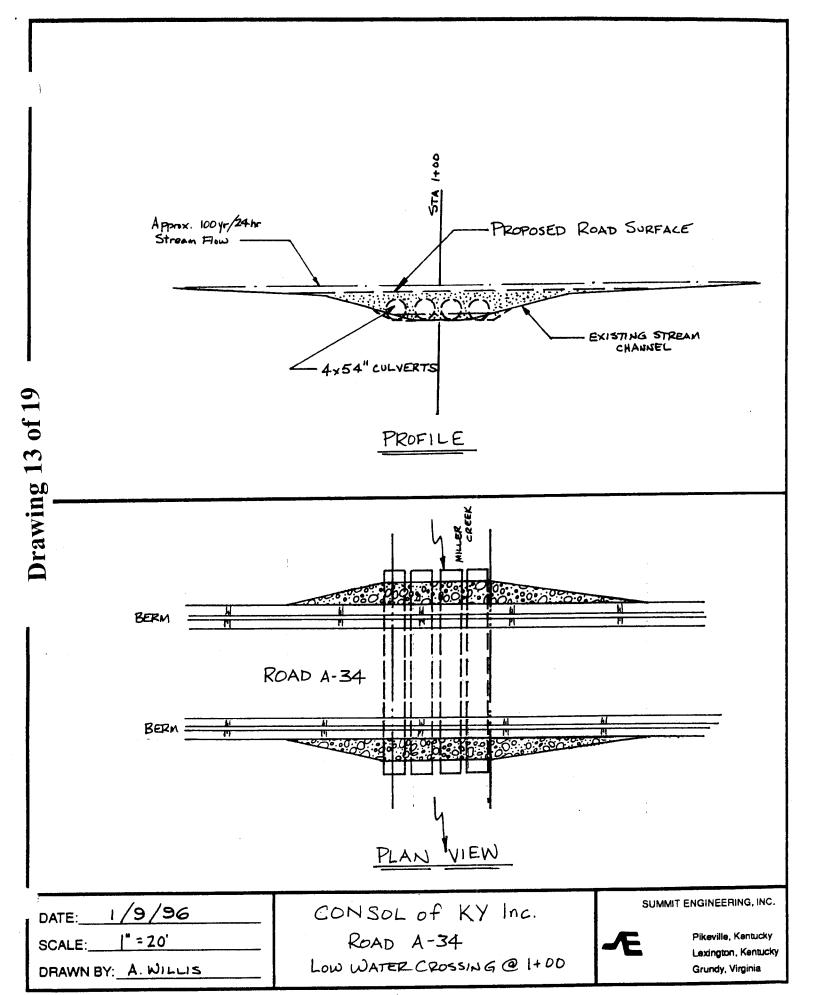


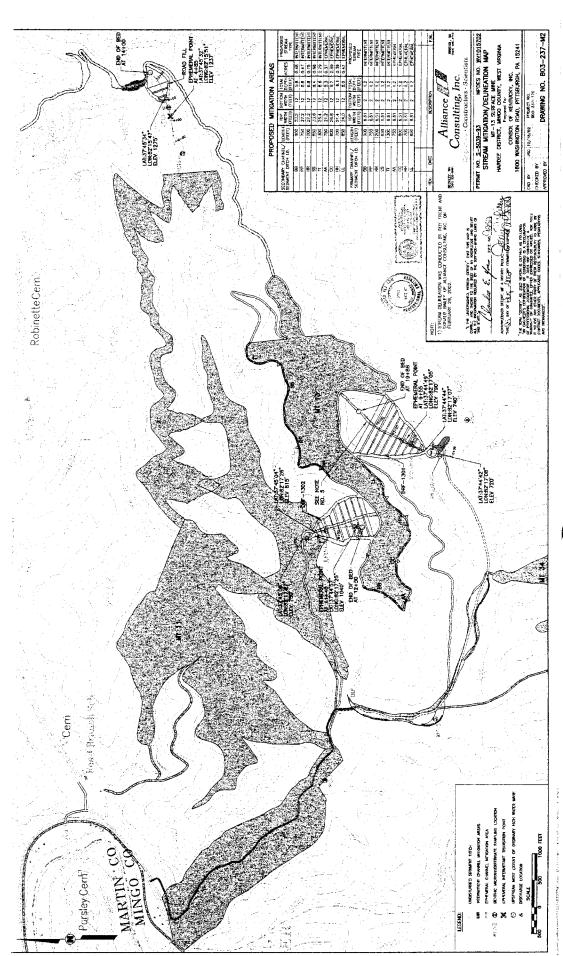




0+00 1+00 2+00 3+00 4+00 5+00 Drawing 11 of 19 6+00 SECTION A-A 7+00 8+00 9+00 10+00 11+00 12+00 13+00 1400 1500 10/25/02 PLAN AND SECTION - ROAD FILL
U.S. ARMY CORP SECTION 404 APPLICATION LAS DRAWN BY Alliance 🏻 CHECKED BY MT-13 SURFACE MINE HARDEE DISTRICT, MINGO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA Consulting, Inc. APPROVED BY PREPARED FOR DRAWING NUMBER Engineers APPALACHIAN FUELS, LLC. Constructors BRISTOL, VA (540) 466-2710 1500 NORTH BIG RUN ROAD, ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41102 B02-082-A10 Scientists





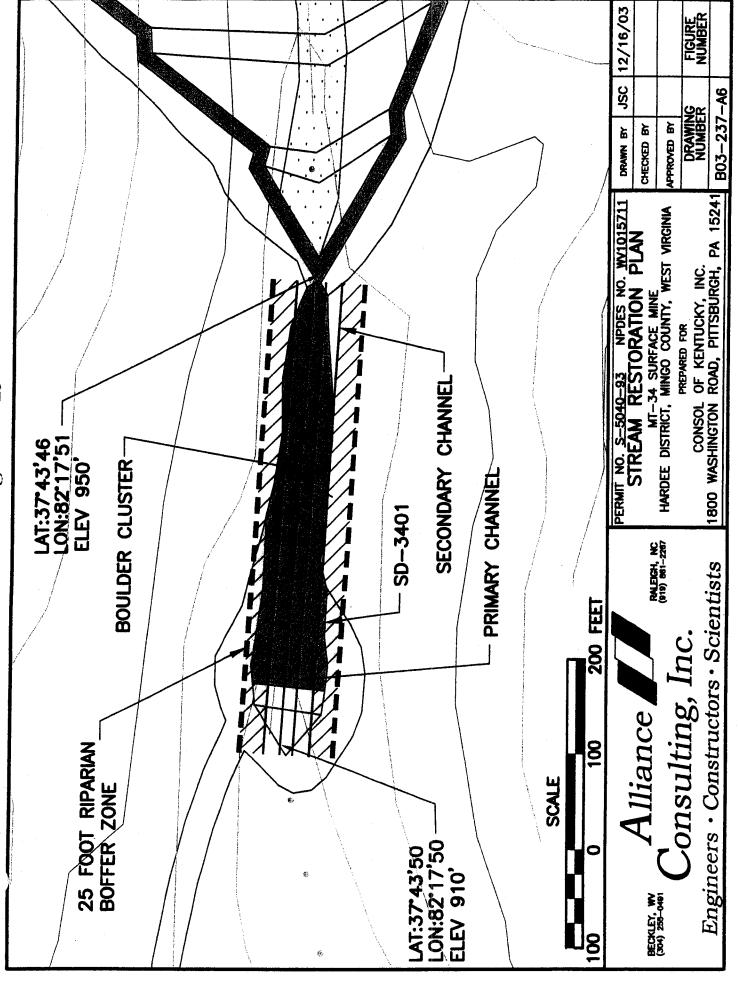


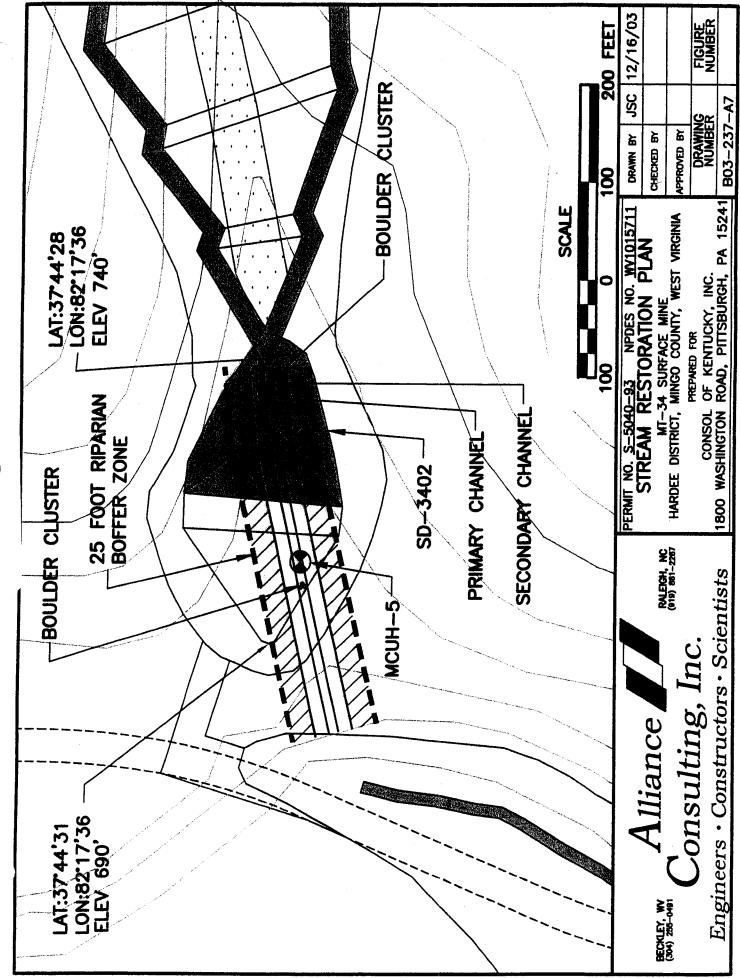
Drawing 14 of 19

Drawing 15 of 19

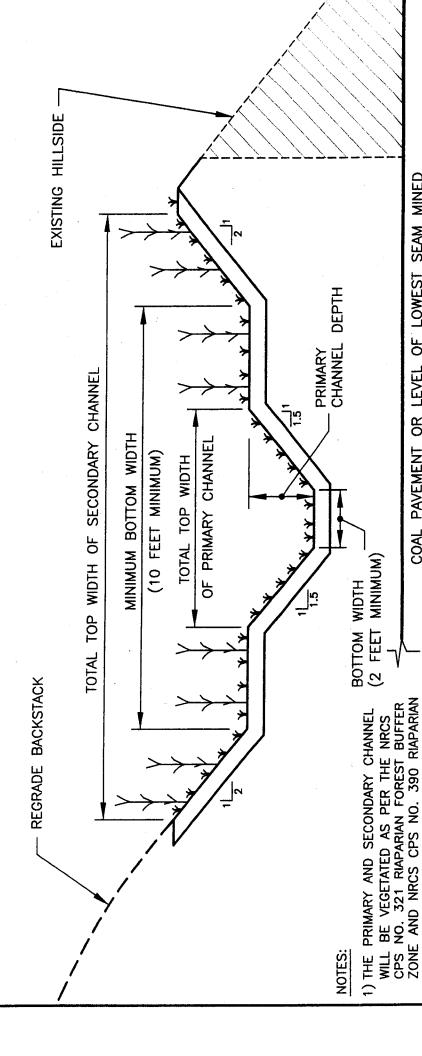


Drawing 16 of 19





Drawing 19 of 19



HERBACEOUS COVER.

2) THE PRIMARY CHANNEL WILL BE VEGETATED AS PER THE MIXTURE FOUND IN THE RESTORATION PLAN.

WITHIN THE EXISTING SEDIMENT DITCH 3) THE PRIMARY CHANNEL WILL BE CUT TO DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR A 2 YEAR 24 HOUR STORM EVENT.

WILL VARY AND ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE STREAM DESIGNS CONTAINED 4) ALL CHANNEL DIMENSIONS FOR THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CHANNEL WITHIN THE RESTORATION PLAN.

TYPICAL DETAIL

COAL PAVEMENT OR LEVEL OF LOWEST SEAM MINED

S 2		
nce	gineers REGGEY, W	(919) 261-2
Alliance	Consul Engineers	Constructors Scientists

SEDIMENT DITCH/STREAM CHANNEL	MT-11, MT-13 AND MT-34 SURFACE MINES	MINGO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA	PREPARED FOR	CONSOL OF KENTUCKY MINING COMPANY
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PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

D BY	DRAWING NUMBER	B03-237-A1
APPROVED BY	ÖZ	B03-

07/24/03

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CHECKED BY DRAWN BY